

FERGUSON -- Serial No.: 09/459,979

consisting of IFN- $\gamma$ , a partially modified form of IFN- $\gamma$ , and  
an inhibitor of IFN- $\gamma$  metabolism.

b  
and

38. (New) The method according to claim 33 wherein  
the stimulator of IFN- $\gamma$  is administered in combination with  
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or  
excipient.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

After page 16, insert the Abstract of the Disclosure  
submitted herewith on a separate sheet.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and entry of the  
foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

The title has been revised as suggested by the  
Examiner.

The claims have been revised so as to be in  
conformance with U.S. practice.

An Abstract has been provided.

Claims 25-32 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first  
paragraph. The rejection is traversed.

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The Examiner indicates that the Example relates to the use of a model of "acute" wounds and therefore asserts that a claim relating to chronic wounds is speculative.

Applicant contests this point of view and submits that a skilled person would readily appreciate that the finding that IFN- $\gamma$  increases fibrosis would mean that IFN- $\gamma$ , and stimulators thereof, would be well suited to treating chronic wounds. It is well known that chronic wounds need to be encouraged to heal and this may be effected by promoting fibrosis (albeit at the expense of worse scarring).

The invention represents a surprising development, because the prior art shows (as indicated at pages 9 and 10 of the specification) that administration of IFN- $\gamma$  to wounds inhibits collagen synthesis, suggesting that it may be useful as an anti-scarring agent. Other art shows that treatment of keloids or hypertrophic scars with IFN- $\gamma$  decreases the size of the scar. Contrary to these findings, Applicant demonstrates that, very surprisingly, the early treatment of wounds with IFN- $\gamma$  causes fibrosis with raised scars that are packed full of collagen. It is this increased fibrosis that would be understood by a

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skilled person to improve healing of chronic wounds. This is apparent from the specification as filed.

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 25-32 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection is submitted to be in order in view of the above revisions. Reconsideration is requested.

This application is submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides compositions and methods for promoting the healing of wounds or fibrotic disorders with reduced scarring, comprising inhibitors and  
5 inhibiting IFN- $\gamma$ , together with compositions and methods for promoting the healing of chronic wounds, comprising  
stimulating and stimulators of IFN- $\gamma$ .

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